

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9437

INFO AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, PDIP

SUBJECT: YOUTH FESTIVAL GLORIFIES OCTOBER WAR

1. MASSIVE YOUTH FESTIVAL AT CAIRO STADIUM EVENING OF OCT 7 INVOLVING THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PERFORMERS WAS SECOND MAJOR EVENT IN EGYPTIAN "VICTORY" CELEBRATION OF OCTOBER WAR. COLORFUL SHOW, FEATURING SPECTACULAR REENACTMENT BY ARMED FORCES OF SUEZ CANAL CROSSING, USING BLANK AMMUNITION AND SMOKE GRENADES, WAS HIGHLIGHT OF GLORIFICATION OF "VICTORY" OVER ISRAELIS.

2. PERFORMANCE TOOK PLACE BEFORE SOME 70,000 PEOPLE WITH PRESIDENT AND MRS. SADAT, VICE PRESIDENT EL SHAFEI AND SENIOR YOUTH OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE. DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND MILITARY ATTACHES ALSO WERE PRESENT.

3. PRAISE FOR ROLE OF SADAT AGAIN PREDOMINANT FEATURE IN CELEBRATIONS AS REFLECTED IN EVENTS AND PORTRAYAL OF HIS IMAGE ON LARGE FLAGS AND IN SPECIAL CARD DISPLAYS BRILLIANTLY EXECUTED BY THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS. IMAGES OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, KING FAYSAL AND OTHER ARAB

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LEADERS ALSO PORTRAYED BUT NOT THAT OF NASSER.

4. IN PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE PUBLISHED OCT 8 IN AL SHABAL (YOUTH) MAGAZINE, SADAT DREW ATTENTION TO EGYPTIAN YOUTH'S ROLE "IN TWO SPHERES", I.E. LIBERATION OF LAND AND RECONSTRUCTION.

5. COMMENT: DRAMATIZATION OF "VICTORY" IN OCT WAR IN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED CELEBRATIONS CONNECTED WITH NEW ARMED FORCES DAY CLEARLY DESIGNED TO STIMULATE POPULAR CONFIDENCE IN REGIME AND PERSONALITY OF SADAT, AS WELL AS HONOR ARMED FORCES. THIS BOUND TO HAVE EXHILIRATING EFFECT ON PEOPLE WHO FOR YEARS HAVE KNOWN ONLY DEFEAT AND HUMILIATION. EILTS

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